

MISSOURI SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL

*Advising the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education on
Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*

Chair

Joe Sartorius

Vice Chair

Deana O'Brien

Secretary

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To Whom It May Concern:

This annual report of Missouri's Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP) is hereby offered for public review. The panel undertook a variety of challenging tasks during the fiscal year that were treated in a professional and thoughtful manner. Some of these tasks included review of litigation in the State of Missouri and the effects on special education students, focusing on the continued improvement process to meet the federal Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) standards, and the implementation of IDEA 2004 in the State of Missouri just to name a few. It is with a sense of accomplishment and pride that we present this document.

The advisory panel is composed of individuals representing a wide spectrum of stakeholders and stakeholder groups in Missouri. The role of the advisory panel is to serve in an advisory capacity to review programs and activities of Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) relevant to special education. The advisory panel will make requests for data and additional information and make recommendations where appropriate in a collaborative effort with DESE. The ultimate goal is to assist in providing Missouri's students in special education with programs and assistance enabling them to be successful in their academic careers and adult life.

The advisory panel wishes to recognize the support and assistance of DESE staff, including Deborah Parsons, Coordinator of Special Education Services, and Lina Browner, Executive Assistant for the Division of Special Education. The Panel thanks other DESE staff for their assistance through a variety of presentations, informational support, and periodic attendance at panel meetings.

Meetings of the advisory panel are open to the public, and we welcome guests who wish to either observe panel meetings and/or make comments relevant to our duties.

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Sincerely,

Joseph A. Sartorius, Ph.D.
Chair